



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Ouachita National Forest
Mena Oden Ranger District

1603 Highway 71 N
Mena, AR 71953

File Code: 1950

Date: August 13, 2019

Dear National Forest Stakeholder:

This project announcement letter serves to initiate scoping, “an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed” (40 CFR 1501.7). Scoping is required for all Forest Service proposed actions, including those that would appear to be categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation in an EA or an EIS (36 CFR 220.4C(1)). I request your input on the following proposed actions regarding the management of the 2020 Mena Oden Farm Bill Thinning Project.

The Forest Service proposes to promote resiliency to insect and disease infestations through the implementation of thinning treatments to approximately 1029 acres (see Table 1 and enclosed maps). As required by HFRA Section 605 c access will not include the construction of permanent roads and required temporary roads will be decommissioned no later than 3 years after the date on which the project is completed. Proposed treatment areas exist within the Three Creeks, West Chula and East Chula watersheds on the Oden District and North Clear Fork on the Mena District. Including plantation stands of shortleaf pine, and shortleaf pine oak forest types. These areas were designated as areas of emphasis for increasing resilience to insect infestation and disease through section 602 of Title VI of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003(16 U.S.C.6591 et seq.). Section 602 was created by an amendment to HFRA in the Farm Bill of 2014. Design criteria would include maximizing the retention of old growth trees, retaining a diverse hardwood component, and minimizing road construction as appropriate for the forest type.

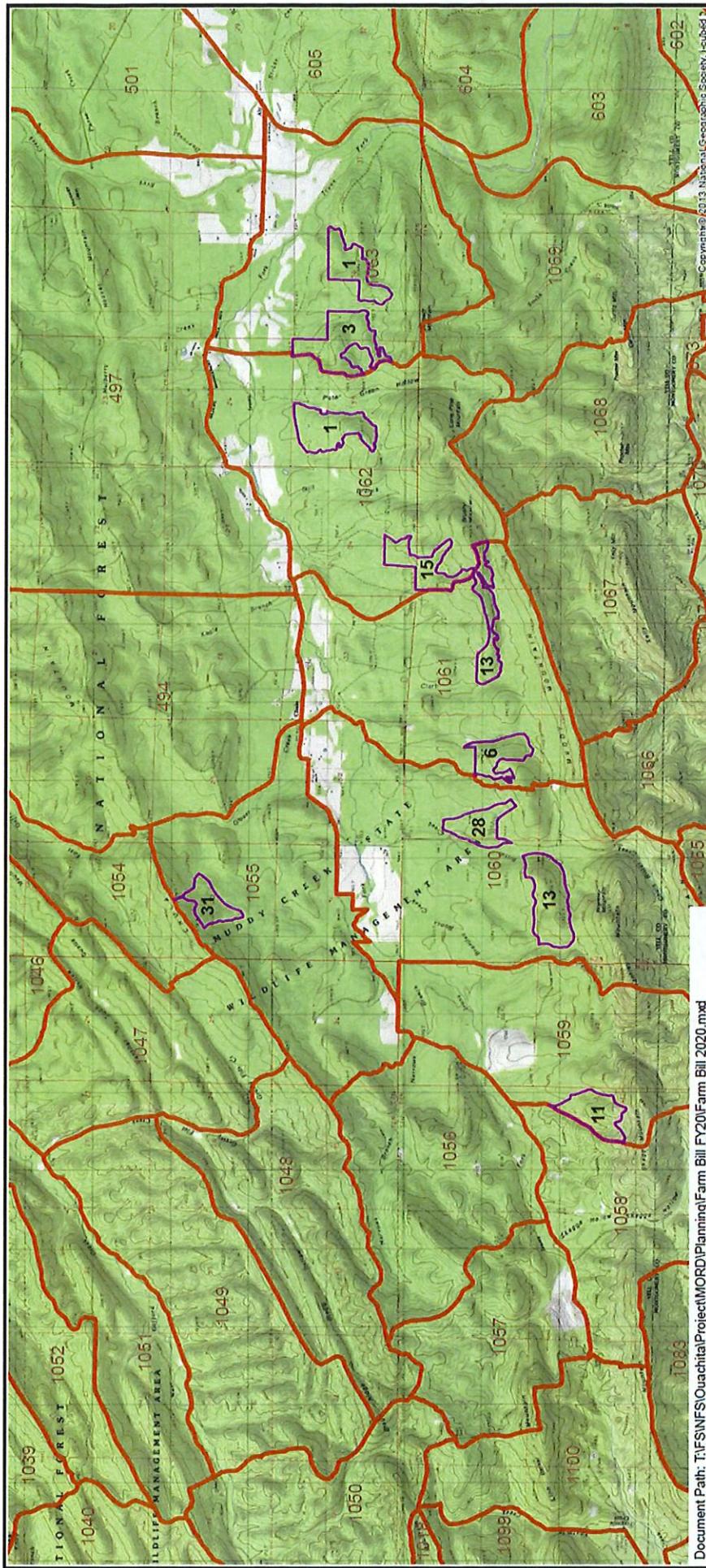
If you have questions about this project or would like more information, please contact **Jade Ryles** at (479) 394-2382 or cjryles@fs.fed.us Mena/Oden District Ranger, **1603 Hwy 71 North, Mena, AR, 71953**.

Sincerely,

Tim Oosterhous
District Ranger

Table 1: 2020 Farm Bill Thinning Stands

Compartment #	Stand #	Stand Acres
1118	1	35
1060	28	70
1060	13	129
1061	6	67
1061	13	75
1062	1	106
1062	15	84
1063	1	82
1063	3	126
1059	11	84
1055	31	58
820	9	114
Total Acres		1029



בְּרִית מָהֳרָה בְּרִית מָהֳרָה

Sensitivity Map



The Forest Service uses the most current and complete data available. GIS data and products can be used very easily, may be developed from sources of differing accuracy, and are certain scale. Based on modeling or interpretation, and incomplete while being created or revised, etc. Using GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were created may yield inaccurate or misleading results. This information was developed to assist forest managers in the use of the data products we have collected, located, and developed for the benefit of the public.

2 Miles

Sheet 1 of 3

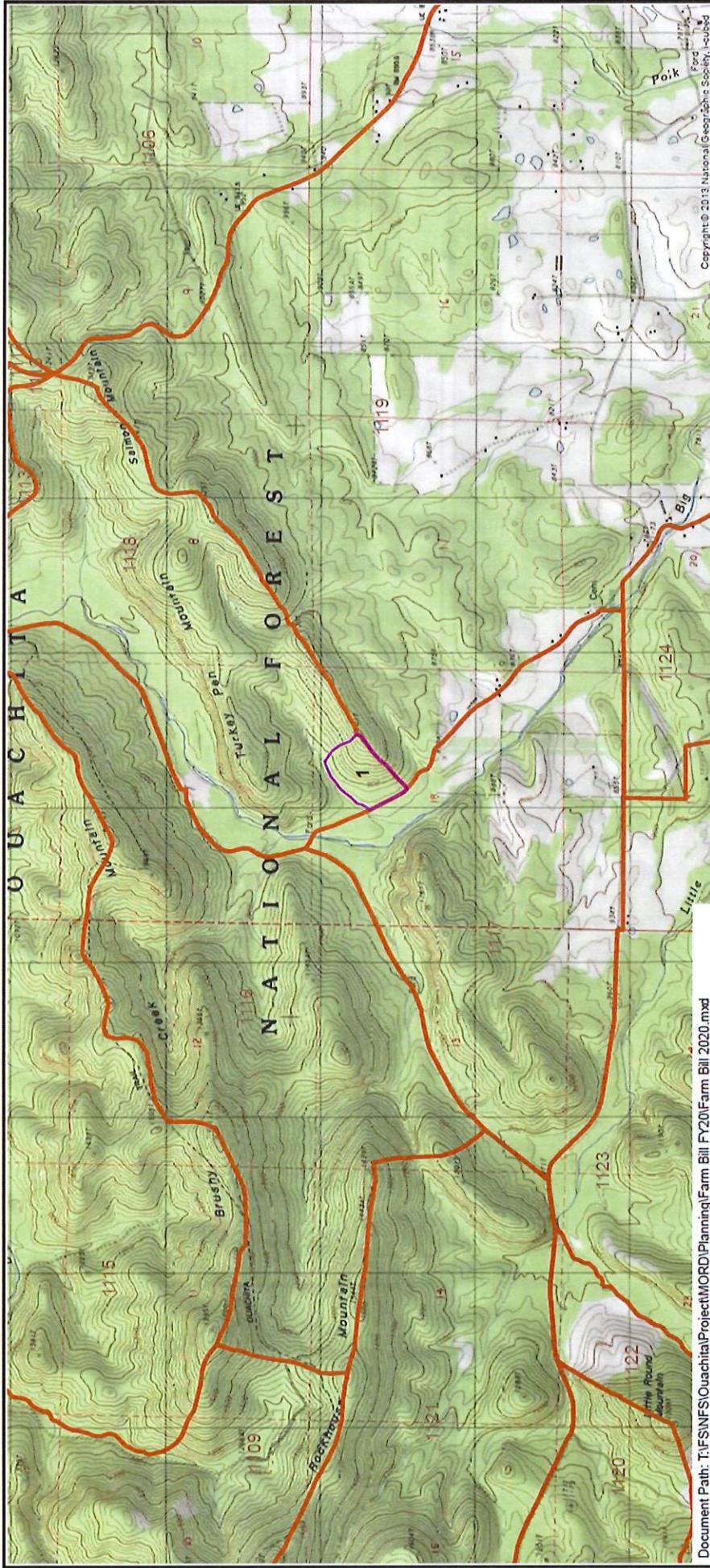
Exem Bill 2020

Mena-Oden Ranger District
Montgomery County, Arkansas

U.S. Forest Service - R8
Ouachita National Forest

For more information, contact the Mena Ranger District at 1603 Hwy. 71 North, Mena, AR or phone (479) 394-2382.

Date Saved: 8/8/2019 3:36:29 PM



Farm Bill 2020
Project area central
Mena-Oden Ranger District
Montgomery County, Arkansas
U.S. Forest Service - R8
Ouachita National Forest

For more information, contact the Mena
Ranger District at 1603 Hwy. 71 North,
Mena, AR or phone (479) 394-2382



